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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in or relating to Spectacles.

We, THE METROPOLITAN WHOLESALE OPTICAL SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED, a British Company, of 85 Hatton Garden, London, E.C.1, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement :—

This invention relates to spectacles for personal wear, and has for its object to provide improved means for attaching decorative components to a spectacle frame in such a way that they can be readily removed and replaced by other components of, for example, a different colour.

It has already been proposed to provide such removable and replaceable decorative components, and to secure them to the spectacle frames in various different ways.

According to the present invention, a spectacle frame has in combination therewith removable and replaceable decorative components which are retained in position on the spectacle frame by magnetic attraction.

Preferably permanent magnets are fixed to the said frame and the decorative components comprise or include pieces of magnetic material.

The decorative components may be located against movement in the plane of contact of the magnet surfaces by dowels or like projections in said components entering holes in the spectacle frame.

In a spectacle frame formed of thermoplastic material, the magnets may be embedded in said frame so as to lie flush with the front surface thereof.

The invention is hereinafter described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which ;—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of one form of spectacle frame embodying the invention one of the decorative components having been removed therefrom ;

Figure 2 is a section on the line 2—2 of Figure 1 ;

Figure 3 is a rear view of one of the decorative components shown in Figures 1 and 2 ; and

Figure 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Figure 3, the thickness of the component being exaggerated.

Referring to the drawings, and more particularly to Figures 1 and 2 thereof, a spectacle frame front 10 formed from thermoplastic material in the usual manner, and having hinged thereto side members one of which is shown at 11 in Figure 2 is recessed in its front face adjacent the hinges for the side members to receive bar-shaped permanent magnets 12 the front faces of which lie in the plane of the face of the frame front 10, the magnets being a sufficiently tight fit in the recesses to ensure their retention therein, or being held in place by an adhesive.

Two small holes 13 and 14 are drilled or otherwise formed in the face of the frame front 10 adjacent each of the magnets 12.

Decorative components, in the form of small plates 15 of coloured thermoplastic material secured, by an adhesive, to thin flat plates 16 of soft iron or other magnetic material, are provided for mounting on the spectacle frame front so as to be held therein by the magnets 12, the plates 16 of magnetic

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material engaging the said magnets. Two pins 17, 18 mounted on the back of each decorative component are positioned to enter respectively holes 13 and 14 in the frame front, thus positioning the decorative component correctly on the frame front and preventing sliding movement thereof in the plane of the said front.

The decorative components may, as shown in the drawing, conform substantially to the shape of the outer upper parts of the frame front. Decorative components of various colours may be provided for use with a single spectacle frame, so that the wearer may select such components as match or blend suitably with clothing or jewellery worn at different times, and one or more sets of decorative components may be provided which have, on the front surface of the coloured thermoplastic material, further decorative elements of metals or other materials such as are commonly used for making costume jewellery.

The invention may be carried out by providing magnets on the decorative components co-operating with plates of magnetic material secured to the frame front, but the arrangement specifically described herein is to be preferred since only one pair of magnets is required for each spectacle frame.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A spectacle frame having in combination therewith removable and replaceable decorative components which are retained in position on the spectacle frame by magnetic attraction.

2. A spectacle frame according to Claim 1 wherein permanent magnets are fixed to the said frame and the decorative components comprise or include pieces of magnetic material.

3. A spectacle frame according to Claim 2 wherein the decorative components are located against movement in the plane of contact of the magnet surfaces by dowels or like projections on said components entering holes in the spectacle frame.

4. A spectacle frame according to Claim 2 or 3 and formed of thermoplastic material wherein the magnets are embedded in said frame so as to lie flush with the front surface thereof.

5. A spectacle frame according to any of Claims 2 to 4, wherein the magnets are formed of high-permeability material.

6. A spectacle frame according to any of Claims 2 to 5, wherein two magnets are provided one at each side of the frame front adjacent the attachment of the side members thereto.

7. A spectacle frame having in combination therewith removable and replaceable decorative components, substantially as described with reference to, and as shown in, the accompanying drawings.

For the Applicants:

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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

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This invention relates to spectacles for personal wear, and has for its object to provide improved means for attaching decorative components to a spectacle frame in such a way that they can be readily removed and replaced by other components of, for example, a different colour.

It has already been proposed to provide such removable and replaceable decorative components, and to secure them to the spectacle frames in various different ways.

According to the present invention, the decorative components are retained in position on the spectacle frame by the force of magnetic attraction. Conveniently, magnets are fixed to the spectacle frame, and the

decorative components carry pieces of magnetic material on which the magnets act.

Preferably, the decorative components are located against movement in the plane of contact of the magnet surfaces by dowels or equivalent projections on the magnetic material or magnet entering holes in the other of said parts.

The magnets and the pieces of magnetic material are preferably in the form of thin flat plates, the magnets preferably being formed of a high-permeability material such as that sold under the Registered Trade Mark "Alnico."

In one embodiment of the invention, a spectacle frame front formed from thermoplastic material in the usual manner has a thin flat magnet attached to each end thereof adjacent the position where a side member is secured to the said frame front. The magnet is secured to the front face of the frame front,

the latter being cut away so that the magnet lies flush with the said front face, and the magnet is conveniently secured in position by pins or rivets. The magnet may be substantially crescent shaped, conforming at its outer edge with the outline of the frame front. The magnet may be formed with two or more spaced holes passing through it from front to back. Decorative components, in the form of small plates of coloured thermoplastic material, are secured by rivets or other means to thin flat plates of soft iron or other magnetic material, and, when the said components are placed with the plates of magnetic material engaging the magnets, they are held in position by magnetic attraction. If the magnets are provided with holes, correspondingly shaped dowels are provided which protrude from the rear surfaces of the decorative components, so that, when the decorative components are placed in position, they are held against sliding by the said dowels.

Decorative components of various colours may be provided for use with a single spectacle frame, the latter, for example, being made of transparent or colourless translucent material. The decorative components may include on the surface of the coloured thermoplastic material further decorative elements made of metals or other materials such as are commonly used for making costume jewellery.

Whilst it is obviously more economical to secure the magnets to the spectacle frame and employ plates of magnetic material on the decorative components, the reverse arrangement is not excluded.

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